

CLAIMS

1. ~~(New) A method of facilitating messaging outside of a defined user group, comprising steps of:~~
- 5 ~~reserving a plurality of routing codes for exchanging messages with users outside of a defined group of users;~~
- ~~exchanging messages between a first user and a second user, wherein said second user is outside of said defined group;~~
- ~~assigning one of said routing codes to a message directed to said second~~
- 10 ~~user by said first user; and~~
- ~~temporarily assigning one of said routing codes to said second user's personal identifier so that said first user can easily reply to said second user without originating a new message.~~
- 15 2. ~~(New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said defined group comprises a buddy group defined by said first user.~~
- ~~3. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein said first user comprises a user of a mobile unit device, and wherein said second user is outside of said buddy~~
- 20 ~~group.~~
4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein said messages comprise instant messages.
- 25 5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 35[4], wherein said step of exchanging messages temporarily associating one of the routing codes with the user comprises steps of:
- composing a message for said second the user by at said mobile user device, said message including at least said second user's personal identifier in
- 30 body of said message;

sending said message to a routing code assigned to an 'unlisted' function on said mobile device;

receiving said message at an instant messaging system;

capturing said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier by said instant messaging
5 system;

assigning a routing code to said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier; and

sending said message to said ~~second~~ user; and

optionally returning notice of said assignment to said mobile ~~user unit~~, so
that future messaging is facilitated.

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6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 35[4], further comprising
~~wherein said step of exchanging messages comprises steps of:~~

sending a message to said mobile device user by said ~~second~~ user;

receiving said message at said instant messaging system;

15 capturing said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier by an instant messaging
system;

assigning a routing code to said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier; and

sending said message to said mobile user.

20 7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 35[4], wherein said step of
~~exchanging messages~~ transmitting the reply message to the user comprises
steps of:

receiving a message at said mobile unit from said ~~second~~ user, wherein
said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier has previously been associated with a
25 ~~second~~ routing code; and

replying to said received message ~~by said mobile user~~ by means of a
'reply' function on said mobile unit.

8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 35[4], wherein assignment of a
30 routing code to said ~~second~~ user persists for the duration of a user session.

9. (Currently amended) The method of The method of Claim 35[4], wherein routing codes for assignment to ~~a second user~~ are recycled during a user session if the number of ~~second~~ users exceeds the routing codes available for ~~second users~~.

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10. (Currently a mended) The method of The method of Claim 35[4], further comprising the step of:

preventing occurrence of a condition wherein different ~~second~~ users are associated with the same routing code.

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11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein said step of preventing comprises any of the steps of:

delaying delivery of a message from said ~~second~~ user pending confirmation of said a mobile user's interest in receiving said message; and

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providing sufficient routing codes that recycling of codes is unlikely to be necessary.

~~12. (New) A computer program product, said computer program product comprising a tangible medium with computer readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code including code means for performing the steps of a method for facilitating messaging outside of pre-defined user group, the method comprising steps of:~~

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~~reserving a plurality of routing codes for exchanging messages with users outside of a defined group of users;~~

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~~exchanging messages between a first user and a second user, wherein said second user is outside of said defined group;~~

~~assigning one of said routing codes to a message directed to said second user by said first user; and~~

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~~temporarily assigning one of said routing codes to said second user's personal identifier so that said first user can easily reply to said second user without originating a new message.~~

13. ~~(New) The computer program product of Claim 12, wherein said defined group comprises a buddy group defined by said first user.~~

5 44. ~~(New) The computer program product of Claim 13, wherein said first user comprises a user of a mobile unit device, and wherein said second user is outside of said buddy group.~~

15. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 37[12],
10 wherein said messages comprise instant messages.

16. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 37[15], wherein said step of ~~exchanging messages~~ temporarily associating one of the routing codes with the user comprises steps of:

15 composing a message for said ~~second~~ the user by at said mobile user device, said message including at least said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier in body of said message;

sending said message to a routing code assigned to an 'unlisted' function on said mobile device;

20 receiving said message at an instant messaging system;

capturing said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier by said instant messaging system;

assigning a routing code to said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier; and

sending said message to said ~~second~~ user; and

25 optionally returning notice of said assignment to said mobile user unit, so that future messaging is facilitated.

17. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 37[15], said method further comprising ~~wherein said step of exchanging messages~~
30 ~~comprises steps of:~~

sending a message to said mobile device user by said ~~second~~ user;

receiving said message at said instant messaging system;
capturing said second user's personal identifier by an instant messaging
system;
assigning a routing code to said second user's personal identifier; and
5 sending said message to said mobile user unit.

18. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 37[15],
wherein said step of exchanging messages transmitting the reply message to
the user comprises steps of:

10 receiving a message at said mobile unit from said ~~second~~ user, wherein
said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier has previously been associated with a
~~second~~ routing code; and

replying to said received message by ~~said mobile user~~ by means of a
'reply' function on said mobile unit.

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19. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 37[15],
wherein assignment of a routing code to said ~~second~~ user persists for the
duration of a user session.

20 20. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 37[15],
wherein routing codes for assignment to ~~a second user~~ are recycled during a
user session if the number of ~~second~~ users exceeds the routing codes available
for ~~second~~ users.

25 21. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 37[15], said
method further comprising the step of:
preventing occurrence of a condition wherein different ~~second~~ users are
associated with the same routing code.

30 22. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim ~~40~~ 22,
wherein said step of preventing comprises any of the steps of:

delaying delivery of a message from said ~~second~~ user pending confirmation of said a mobile user's interest in receiving said message; and providing sufficient routing codes that recycling of codes is unlikely to be necessary.

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~~23. (Previously presented) An apparatus for facilitating messaging outside of a defined group comprising:~~

~~a plurality of reserved routing codes for exchanging messages with users outside of said defined group;~~

10 ~~means for exchanging messages between a first user and a second user, said second user not included in said defined group;~~

~~means for assigning one of said routing codes to a message directed to said second user by said first user; and~~

15 ~~means for temporarily assigning one of said routing codes to said second user's personal identifier so that said first user can easily reply to said second user without originating a new message.~~

~~24. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein said defined group comprises a buddy group defined by said first user.~~

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~~25. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein said first user comprises a user of a mobile unit device, and wherein said second user is outside of said buddy group.~~

25 26. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim [25] 39, wherein said messages comprise instant messages.

27. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim [26] 39, wherein said means for exchanging messages temporarily associating one of the routing codes with
30 the user comprises means for:

composing a message for said ~~second~~ the user by at said mobile user device, said message including at least said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier in body of said message;

5 sending said message to a routing code assigned to an 'unlisted' function on said mobile device;

receiving said message at an instant messaging system;

capturing said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier by said instant messaging system;

assigning a routing code to said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier; and

10 sending said message to said ~~second~~ user; and

optionally returning notice of said assignment to said mobile user unit, so that future messaging is facilitated.

15 28. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim [26] 39, wherein said means for exchanging messages comprises means for:

sending a message to said mobile device user by said ~~second~~ user;

receiving said message at said instant messaging system;

20 capturing said second user's personal identifier by an instant messaging system;

assigning a routing code to said second user's personal identifier; and

25 sending said message to said mobile user unit.

29. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim [26] 39, wherein said means for exchanging messages transmitting the reply message to the user comprises steps of:

receiving a message at said mobile unit from said ~~second~~ user, wherein said ~~second~~ user's personal identifier has previously been associated with a ~~second~~ routing code; and

30 replying to said received message by ~~said mobile user~~ by means of a 'reply' function on said mobile unit.

30. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim [26] 39, wherein assignment of a routing code to said ~~second~~ user persists for the duration of a user session.
- 5 31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim [26] 39, wherein routing codes for assignment to a ~~second~~ user are recycled during a user session if the number of ~~second~~ users exceeds the routing codes available for ~~second~~ users.
32. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim [26] 39, further comprising
10 means for:
preventing occurrence of a condition wherein different second users are associated with the same routing code.
33. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim [26] 39, wherein said means
15 for preventing comprises means for any of:
delaying delivery of a message from a second user pending confirmation of said mobile user's interest in receiving said message; and
providing sufficient routing codes for assignment to said second users that recycling of codes is unlikely to be necessary.
- 20 34. (New) A method of facilitating messaging between a mobile device and a user, the method comprising steps of:
providing a plurality of reserved routing codes for exchanging messages between users and mobile devices;
25 in response to receiving a message from the user directed to the mobile device, temporarily associating one of the routing codes with the user;
including the temporarily associated routing code in the message as a reply address; and
transmitting the message with the included temporarily associated routing
30 code to the mobile device.

35. (New) The method of Claim 34, further comprising:

receiving a reply message from the mobile device directed to the temporarily associated routing code; and
transmitting the reply message to the user.

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36. (New) A computer program product, said computer program product comprising a tangible medium with computer-readable code embodied thereon, said computer-readable code including code means for performing the steps of a method of facilitating messaging between a mobile device and a user, the
10 method comprising steps of:

providing a plurality of reserved routing codes for exchanging messages between users and mobile devices;

in response to receiving a message from the user directed to the mobile device, temporarily associating one of the routing codes with the user;

15 including the temporarily associated routing code in the message as a reply address; and

transmitting the message with the included temporarily associated routing code to the mobile device.

20 37. (New) The computer program product of Claim 36, the method further comprising:

receiving a reply message from the mobile device directed to the temporarily associated routing code; and

transmitting the reply message to the user.

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38. (New) An apparatus for facilitating messaging between a mobile device and a user, the method comprising steps of:

a plurality of reserved routing codes for exchanging messages between users and mobile devices;

30 means for in response to receiving a message from the user directed to the mobile device, temporarily associating one of the routing codes with the user;

means for including the temporarily associated routing code in the message as a reply address; and

means for transmitting the message with the included temporarily associated routing code to the mobile device.

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39. (New) The apparatus of Claim 38, further comprising:

means for receiving a reply message from the mobile device directed to the temporarily associated routing code; and

means for transmitting the reply message to the user.

On page 1, please amend the title as follows:

~~FACILITATING INSTANT MESSAGING OUTSIDE OF USER DEFINED BUDDY
GROUP IN A WIRELESS AND NON-WIRELESS ENVIRONMENT~~

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FACILITATING MESSAGING BETWEEN A MOBILE DEVICE AND A USER

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